

Minutes
Skateboard Park Advisory Committee
March 13, 2006

Committee Members Present: Keith Strobel, Christian Poules, Matthew Johnston, Dan Hughes, John Carr, Kim Schwarzkopf, Scott Shinn, Roxanne Thomas

Guests: Ryan Barth

Staff: Susan Golub

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and the agenda was approved.

Public Comment – Pre-Meeting There was none.

Project Updates

1. Ballard Civic Center Park Opening Matt reported on the official opening of the Ballard Civic Center Park and thanked John for doing a great job representing skateboarders. Matt noted that he perceives boarders being accepted by the community. Scott noted that the sign for the bowl is up and looks good. A remaining concern is the condition of the grass next to the bowl – it dries out and blows into the bowl.

2. River City Skatepark Kim reported that a fundraiser will be held at the end of April for the new skatepark. There was discussion about the possibility of applying for a grant from Kaboom, a national non-profit organization. The March 21 deadline and a concern that the grant was intended for project completion, led the River City organization to determine that they could not at this time apply to Kaboom.

3. Comprehensive Skatepark Planning John reported that the first Task Force meeting for the comprehensive skatepark planning process will be March 16. The big issues for this initial meeting will be the scope of work and what type of consultant is hired. The consultant will focus on:

1. Siting criteria;
2. Skatepark types;
3. Assessment of current facilities;
4. Identification of available property;
5. Cost assessment;
6. Implementation plan; and
7. Public involvement process.

Regarding public involvement, the current plan has 2 sets of 3 public meetings.

Dan Hughes asked how the need for skateparks would be determined, and what quantity of parks would be planned for. John responded that the focus should be where kids are. Scott mentioned a Vancouver, B.C. firm as a possible consultant and suggested modeling our comprehensive plan on Portland's which includes 19 skateparks.

Responding to Scott's consultant suggestion, Matt stated that he thought the consultant should be someone who knows Seattle politics and has good local networking capability. He said the consultant

should be skater-neutral and completely objective. Skatepark expertise can be contracted to a sub, but the main consultant should **not** be skater-related.

4. Lower Woodland Dan Hughes reported that the 4th public meeting had a small turn-out, with the last 20 minutes the most productive. This was when the skaters, young and older, gathered around Wally Hollyday's drawing and gave him comments. Dan suggested that future meetings involve kids more with the design for the park, and take other issues to a separate location. This was done successfully at the Dahl skatepark public meeting. John suggested that perhaps SPAC could create a policy with recommendations for skatepark public meetings. Scott reported that the Department of Neighborhoods suggested he apply for a Small and Simple grant. They are not going to fund his Large Project grant.

5. Seattle Center Skatepark Susan reported that the consultants working on a site selection study for replacing the Seattle Center skatepark are scheduled to issue a draft report soon and that a recommendation from the Mayor should be at the City Council in about 6 weeks.

6. Dahl Skatespot Matt reported that he is facilitating getting a letter of support from Councilmember Della for this project.

7. Marginal Way Three trucks of concrete were poured at the site on March 7, with lots of volunteer workers. The park is already very popular.

8. Roosevelt Skatespot The idea for a skatepark underneath I-5 at 65th in the Roosevelt neighborhood is moving forward. A King County organization called 4 Profit is spearheading an art installation at this location and supports the skatepark idea. Christian noted that at the Seattle 2100 Open Space planning forum support for the Roosevelt skatepark was expressed.

Feature Discussion – Skatepark Funding and Creation

The SPAC discussed the idea of creating a document that would provide citizens with the tools and knowledge needed to build a skatepark. John described the idea as a cookbook that would provide the start to finish steps in skatepark creation. Matt noted that one goal of the document would be to give step by step instructions for how to get a skatepark built on sites that had been identified in the comprehensive skatepark master plan. Another goal would be to spur involvement in local skatepark advocacy. Fundraising and process would be key features of the guide.

There was some discussion as to whether a cookbook was the best approach, with some SPAC members favoring a less written approach, with perhaps SPAC meetings or a seminar providing the information. There was consensus that a resource guide would be every valuable. Using the web as a means to distribute the guide was suggested. Assignments for preparing the guide were made:

- Kim offered to use her current resource list as a starting point for the guide;
- Ryan volunteered to do bullet points;
- Matt offered to provide a timeline;
- Dan will provide images;
- John offered to edit the material;
- Scott offered to do web development; and
- Christian will provide information about the construction process, such as costs per square foot.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00p.m.

